

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS: BELOVSKI CALL ON VEST

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST ON APRIL 20 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS
BEFORE RETURNING TO YUGOSLAVIA ON A SHORT TRIP. AFTER A
BRIEF EXCHANGE ON THE CEAUSESCU VISIT AND US-SOVIET RELA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 105185

TIONS, BELOVSKI WENT OVER A SERIES OF PROJECTED VISITS
BOTH WAYS IN THE COMING YEAR; SAID THAT INFORMATION SECRE-
TARY BERBEROVIC'S VISIT WOULD BE CHANGED FROM OFFICIAL TO
PRIVATE; RAISED SOME CONSULAR/LEGAL PROBLEMS; AND
WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE YUGOSLAV LETTER ON EXIM
GUARANTEES HAD PAVED THE WAY FOR A SETTLEMENT. VEST
RAISED THE ALIMI DUAL NATIONAL CASE AND BELOVSKI

PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT IN YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOVSKI BEGAN BY ASKING ABOUT THE CEAUSESCU VISIT, WHICH VEST SAID HAD PROVIDED BOTH SIDES WITH A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS SERIOUSLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY. THE VISIT WAS, WE FELT, BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES. ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, VEST SAID THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT THE SPECIFIC RESULTS MIGHT BE, BUT WE EXPECTED A SERIOUS AND BUSINESSLIKE

APPROACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SALT II. WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ANYTHING DRAMATIC, BUT THE PROCESS IS ENGAGED. THERE COULD BE FURTHER TALKS IN ABOUT A MONTH WHEN GROMYKO COMES TO THE US FOR SSOD. THEN IF THE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS RIGHT ON BOTH SIDES, A SUMMIT MAY BE POSSIBLE LATER THIS YEAR. AT THIS POINT, THIS IS MERELY SPECULATION, SAID VEST, BUT AS THE YUGO-SLAVS KNOW, WE ARE SEEKING BETTER US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

3. VEST COMMENTED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC'S LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL AND TIMELY, COMING AS IT DID ON THE EVE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. VEST SAID THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE RESPONDING AFTER HE RETURNED FROM MOSCOW.

4. ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TITO'S ATTENDANCE AT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 105185

UN SSOD STARTING IN LATE MAY, BELOVSKI SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HEAD THE DELEGATION AND TITO WOULD "PROBABLY" NOT COME. THE FINAL DECISION STILL DEPENDS UPON ATTENDANCE BY OTHER HEADS OF STATE. TITO IS INCLINED AGAINST COMING BUT THE DOOR IS NOT CLOSED.

5. TURNING TO OTHER PROSPECTIVE VISITS, BELOVSKI SAID THEIR "PLAN" FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT VISITORS: A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HEADED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (GLIGOROV OR HIS SUCCESSOR) IN JULY; DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC IN OCTOBER; A GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DELEGATION, TIMING UNKNOWN. IN ADDITION TO THESE GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, BELOVSKI EXPECTED A PARTY DELEGATION, PROBABLY IN THE AUTUMN. FROM THE US SIDE, THE YUGOSLAVS WERE EXPECTING SECRETARY VANCE, DR. BRZEZINSKI (IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY, IF HE PREFERS), EXIM PRESIDENT MOORE IN JUNE (FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE US-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL), TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, CHAIRMAN POATS OF OPIC, COMMERCE SECRETARY KREPS, COMMERCE DEPUTY SECRETARY WEIL AND PERHAPS OTHERS. VEST NOTED THAT IT LOOKED LIKE A FULL PLATE,

BUT DID NOT OTHERWISE COMMENT ON THE SUGGESTIONS.

6. BELOVSKI ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S SONS AND THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES VISITING YUGOSLAVIA THIS SUMMER OR FALL, AS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY DURING THE TITO VISIT. VEST SUGGESTED THAT BELOVSKI WRITE TO DR. BRZEZINSKI TO INVITE THE PRESIDENT'S CHILDREN. BELOVSKI SEEMED RELUCTANT TO WRITE, BUT AGREED TO CALL NSC TO FOLLOW UP THE EARLIER CONVERSA-

TION.

7. ON THE BERBEROVIC VISIT, BELOVSKI SAID ABRUPTLY THAT HE SUGGESTED CALLING OFF THE ENTIRE OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 105185

PROGRAM AND HAVING THE VISIT HANDLED STRICTLY PRIVATELY. BERBEROVIC WOULD BE A GUEST OF THE EMBASSY BUT WOULD NOT PAY ANY CALLS. THE PROBLEM, SAID BELOVSKI, WAS THAT THE VISIT IN THE FORM PROPOSED WAS NOT "APPROPRIATE" FOR A CABINET LEVEL MINISTER. HIS HOST WOULD NOT BE A CABINET MINISTER AND THE VISITOR PROGRAM WAS NOT THE WAY TO HANDLE SOMEONE AT THIS LEVEL. SO IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HANDLE IT STRICTLY PRIVATELY. VEST SAID SUCH A DECISION WAS OF COURSE UP TO THE YUGOSLAVS, BUT HE WANTED BELOVSKI TO KNOW THAT WE ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO BERBEROVIC'S VISIT AND HAD ARRANGED FOR HIM TO SEE MR. NEWSOM AND OTHERS. ICA DIRECTOR REINHARDT, OUR NEAREST EQUIVALENT, HAD INVITED HIM, AND ACTING DIRECTOR BRAY WOULD ACT AS HIS HOST. BRAY HAD INVITED SEVERAL PEOPLE TO LUNCH ALREADY. BELOVSKI SAID THE LUNCHEON COULD GO ON AS PLANNED, BUT NO CALLS. HE ASKED THAT THERE BE NO BAD FEELINGS ON EITHER SIDE, AND VEST AGREED.

8. BELOVSKI THEN RAISED A FEW CONSULAR/LEGAL QUESTION-. ONE INVOLVES THE YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO (WHO IS BEING SUED BY THE FATHER OF THE WOMAN CONVICTED IN THE TWA HIJACKING CASE OVER AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS CLAIM WERE WRITTEN IN THE LINE OF DUTY). A SECOND CASE INVOLVES "TREATY TRADER" STATUS FOR THREE YUGOSLAVS WHO ARE WORKING TEMPORARILY IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK FOR THE UNITED WOOD PRODUCTS JOINT VENTURE. FINALLY, HE ASKED FOR CONTINUED FIXED POST GUARD COVERAGE AT THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY. VEST SAID THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THESE QUESTIONS AND BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

9. ON EXIM GUARANTEES, BELOVSKIMENTIONED FINANCE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 105185

SECRETARY CEMOVIC'S RECENT LETTER TO EXIM PRESIDENT MOORE, SAYING THAT IT SHOWED CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY AND SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM. VEST SAID THAT THE LETTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY BY EXIM AND THE INITIAL REACTION WAS POSITIVE. MOORE WOULD BE RESPONDING SOON. BELOVSKI SAID THAT SOME CONSIDERATION MIGHT HAVE TO BE TAKEN FOR "EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE DEALS," BUT THE FORM FOR HANDLING THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT MUTUALLY.

10. VEST THEN RAISED THE DUAL NATIONAL PROBLEM, SPECIFICALLY THE ALIMIS CASE. BELOVSKI SAID THAT CONGRESSMAN MAGUIRE HAD CALLED HIM EARLIER THAT DAY AND HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN. BELOVSKI SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER IN BELGRADE, AND WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS. HE PROMISED TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF THE CASE AND TO CALL CONGRESSMAN MAGUIRE AFTER RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.

11. JUST AS HE WAS LEAVING, BELOVSKI SAID THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC'S TRIP TO NEW YORK (APRIL 21-27) WAS NOT BECAUSE OF THE NAMIBIA DEBATE, BUT TO MEET WITH CERTAIN OF THE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS. VEST INDICATED THAT SECRETARY VANCE WOULD NOT BE IN NEW YORK WHILE MINIC IS THERE VANCE

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